

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/622,413

Examiner

Jason Mitchell

Applicant(s)

MEIJER ET AL.

Art Unit

2193

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to remarks filed 6/20/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 5, 12, 15 and 25. (New #1 and 1-4)
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

The application has been amended as follows:

1-4: (Canceled)

5. A method of linking accessibility and override-ability of virtual methods comprising:

setting at least one bit in metadata indicative of allowing a virtual method to be overridden; and
checking the status of the at least one bit to determine if accessibility of the virtual method need be verified before overriding the virtual method, wherein a first state of the at least one bit is indicative of granting an unconditional override of the virtual method and a second state of the at least one bit is indicative of granting an override dependent on the accessibility of the virtual method, further wherein the accessibility is indicated by flag bits in metadata comprising a private bit, a public bit, an assembly bit, a family bit and a virtual bit; and
performing or refusing the override of the virtual method based on the at least

one bit and the flag bits.

6-11 (canceled)

12. A computer system comprising:

a processor which acts upon an input program comprising at least one virtual method;

a mechanism establishing a potential correspondence between accessibility and override-ability of a virtual method comprising at least one bit of metadata;

wherein the processor utilizes the mechanism to detect the potential correspondence between accessibility and override-ability before allowing the at least

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one virtual method to be overridden, further wherein a first state of the mechanism permits the at least one virtual method to be overridden if the at least one virtual method is not accessible, and further wherein a second state of the mechanism equates accessibility and override-ability; and
the processor performing or refusing an override of the virtual method based on the at least one bit and the accessibility.

13-14 (canceled)

15. The computer system of claim 12, wherein a derived method being generated from the at least one virtual method is subject to the mechanism establishing a potential correspondence between accessibility and override-ability of a virtual method.

16-24. (canceled)

25. A computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of linking accessibility and override-ability of virtual methods comprising:

setting at least one bit in metadata indicative of allowing a virtual method to be overridden; and

checking the status of the at least one bit to determine if accessibility of the virtual method need be verified before overriding the virtual method, wherein a first state

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of the at least one bit is indicative of granting an unconditional override of the virtual method and a second state of the at least one bit is indicative of granting an override dependent on the accessibility of the virtual method, further wherein the accessibility is indicated by flag bits in metadata comprising a private bit, a public bit, an assembly bit, a family bit and a virtual bit; and

performing or refusing the override of the virtual method based on the at least one bit and the flag bits.

26-29. (canceled)

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art ("Sealed Calls in Java Package" by Zaks et al.) does not disclose or suggest "linking accessibility and override-ability of virtual methods" wherein "a first state of the at least one bit is indicative of granting an unconditional override of the virtual method and a second state of the at least one bit is indicative of granting an override dependent on the accessibility of the virtual method"

As acknowledged by Applicant (see par. [0002]-[0003]) those of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention, were aware of languages which restricted override-ability to only accessible methods (e.g. JAVA), and languages which allowed "unconditional" override-ability (e.g. C++). However, Examiner could find no prior art reference which

discloses or suggests "linking accessibility and override-ability of virtual methods" such that at least one bit of metadata indicates "granting unconditional override of the virtual method" or "granting an override dependent on the accessibility of the virtual method", effectively allowing a developer to switch between the two prior art methods of determining override-ability within a single application.

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason Mitchell whose telephone number is (571) 272-3728. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday and alternate Fridays 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kakali Chaki can be reached on (571) 272-3719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Jason Mitchell
9/15/06



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